

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated June 6, 2003 from parent application 10/017,958, the Examiner rejected claims 9-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or 103(a) as being anticipated by or unpatentable over the art of record and allowed claims 5-8. Claims 1-4, 14-17 were cancelled in response to a restriction requirement.

With this Preliminary Amendment and divisional application, Applicant has cancelled claims 5-13, in order to pursue examination of claims 1-4 and 14-17. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are allowable over the art of record.

I. CLAIMS 1-4

Claim 1 comprises at least one thumb screw assembly comprising a threaded screw with a groove and a gripping accessory with a grip for matingly engaging the screw in the groove. The thumb screw assembly is received in a receiving zone of a computer chassis.

Applicant respectfully submits that the art of record fails to teach, suggest or even imply a gripping assembly with a grip for matingly engaging a screw in the groove and additionally fails to teach a thumb screw assembly received in a receiving zone of a computer chassis.

Claims 2-4, which depend from claim 1, include additional patentable limitations and find support throughout the specification.

II. CLAIMS 14-17

Claim 14 comprises a means for engaging and disengaging a component to a computer chassis. The means comprises a shank having a groove formed longitudinal therein and a retaining notch and a gripping accessory which is disposed radially about the shank and can be moved longitudinally along at least a portion of the shank.

Applicant respectfully submits that the art of record fails to teach, suggest or even imply a means for engaging and disengaging a component to a computer chassis. Applicant further submits that the art of record additionally fails to teach, suggest or imply a means comprising a shank having a groove formed longitudinal therein and a retaining notch and a gripping accessory which is

disposed radially about the shank and can be moved longitudinally along at least a portion of the shank

Claims 15-17, which depend from claim 14, include additional patentable limitations and find support throughout the specification.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite the resolution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicant may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the prior art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

If any fees or time extensions are inadvertently omitted or if any fees have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Hewlett-Packard Company Deposit Account Number 08-2025 and enter any time extension(s) necessary to prevent this case from being abandoned.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



Jonathan M. Harris
PTO Reg. No. 44,144
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.
(713) 238-8000 (Phone)
(713) 238-8008 (Fax)
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
Legal Dept., M/S 35
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400